

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter I Application No
PCT/IB2004/003951

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B7/0065 G11C13/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G11B G11C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 852 377 A (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 8 July 1998 (1998-07-08) cited in the application columns 6,7,9; figures 3,4,6,7 -----	1-9
Y	EP 0 267 793 A (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 18 May 1988 (1988-05-18) page 6, line 8 - line 22; figure 6 -----	1-9
Y	US 4 655 542 A (DUBE ET AL) 7 April 1987 (1987-04-07) columns 10,11; figure 7 -----	1-9
Y	US 6 549 239 B1 (TAO FAN-CHING) 15 April 2003 (2003-04-15) column 7.8 -----	1-9
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/04/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Damp, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No
PCT/IB2004/003951

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 926 663 A (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN, LTD) 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) paragraphs '0084! - '0088! -----	1-9
Y	US 5 597 997 A (OBATA ET AL) 28 January 1997 (1997-01-28) columns 11-14; figure 13 -----	1-9
Y	US 5 528 577 A (MAENZA ET AL) 18 June 1996 (1996-06-18) columns 3,4 -----	1-9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter Application No
PCT/IB2004/003951

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0852377 A	08-07-1998	US 5995676 A DE 69700494 D1 DE 69700494 T2 EP 0852377 A1 JP 10261042 A	30-11-1999 14-10-1999 04-05-2000 08-07-1998 29-09-1998
EP 0267793 A	18-05-1988	JP 7022311 B JP 63124665 A DE 3777760 D1 EP 0267793 A2 US 4891692 A	08-03-1995 28-05-1988 30-04-1992 18-05-1988 02-01-1990
US 4655542 A	07-04-1987	DE 3688210 D1 DE 3688210 T2 EP 0201274 A2 JP 61255377 A	13-05-1993 04-11-1993 12-11-1986 13-11-1986
US 6549239 B1	15-04-2003	AT 288656 T AU 3283597 A CA 2253820 A1 DE 69732409 D1 EP 0897634 A1 WO 9742756 A1	15-02-2005 26-11-1997 13-11-1997 10-03-2005 24-02-1999 13-11-1997
EP 0926663 A	30-06-1999	JP 11195245 A EP 0926663 A2 US 6160782 A	21-07-1999 30-06-1999 12-12-2000
US 5597997 A	28-01-1997	JP 3235249 B2 JP 6236452 A DE 69323532 D1 DE 69323532 T2 EP 0602637 A2	04-12-2001 23-08-1994 25-03-1999 28-10-1999 22-06-1994
US 5528577 A	18-06-1996	JP 8212558 A	20-08-1996